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N E W S R E L E A S E

LA Swift marks first month of getting riders jobs in N.O.
Free bus service landing some jobs paying more than \$15 per hour

BATON ROUGE – Roughly three out of four LA Swift commuters credit the free bus service with helping them return to work in New Orleans, according to an informal survey of riders taken Nov. 30 — the one-month anniversary of the service.

Of the 189 people who participated in the survey, 72 percent reported that using the LA Swift bus service helped them find employment in New Orleans or return to their old jobs.

“This tells us that LA Swift is doing what we had intended — helping people get back to work by providing them a dependable means of transportation,” Secretary of Labor John Warner Smith said. “The shuttle service has become a critical link that brings workers back to the city that greatly needs them.”

According to the survey, the average rider is working in the construction and recovery effort and earning up to \$10 per hour. However, a large percentage of riders are earning up to \$15 an hour, some even more, in various jobs, according to the Louisiana Department of Labor.

Although the survey is unscientific, it does present a credible picture of the types of jobs riders are finding and how much they are earning as well as the utility of the shuttle service. More than half of the respondents say they have been LA Swift riders for more than two weeks.

“Matching Louisiana workers with the jobs associated with our recovery has been one of the LRA's top priorities,” said LRA Executive Director Andy Kopplin. “LA Swift is making that happen.”

Since the beginning of LA Swift, the service has provided more than 12,000 rides to and from New Orleans. Officials are reviewing potential bus stops between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, but exact stop locations are not confirmed yet. Expanded service will be available before Christmas.

LA Swift is an initiative of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and is coordinated by the Department of Transportation and Development, the Labor Department, New Orleans Regional Transit Authority and the Capital Area Transit System. It is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration. The service began on a 15-day trial basis, but because of its popularity, FEMA approved funding for LA Swift through February 28.

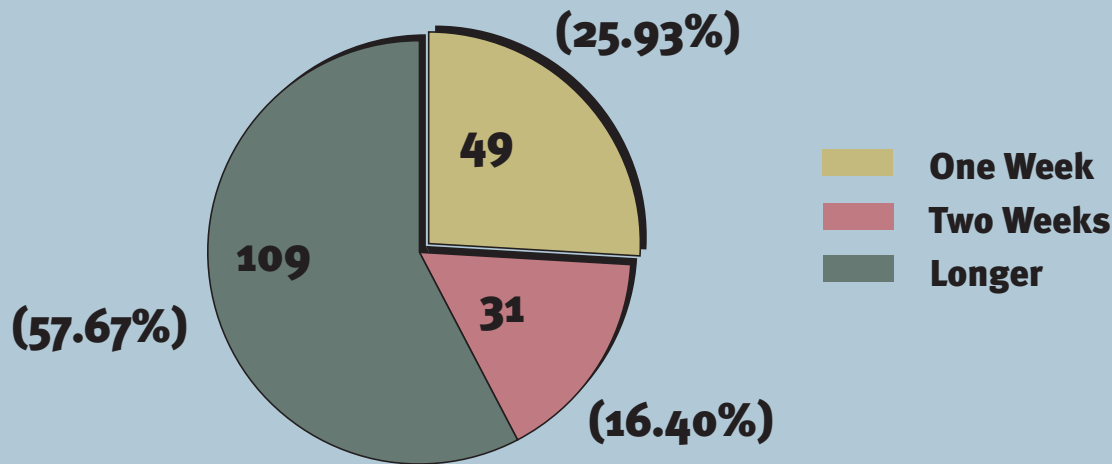
For more information, call DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or toll-free at 1-877-4LA-DOTD (1-877-452-3683, or visit www.laswift.com.

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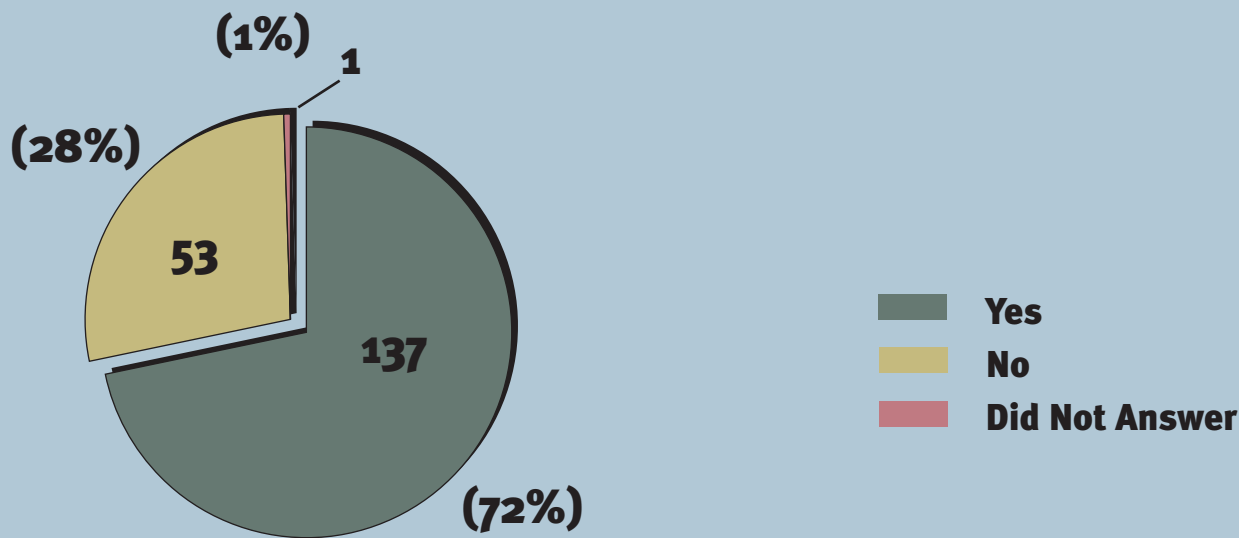
The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF), Louisiana's fund for Louisiana's people, has been established by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco in order to support long-term family restoration and recovery and help provide assistance to our citizens in need through a network of Louisiana charities and non-profit agencies.

1-877-HELPLA1 (1-877-435-7521) www.louisianahelp.org

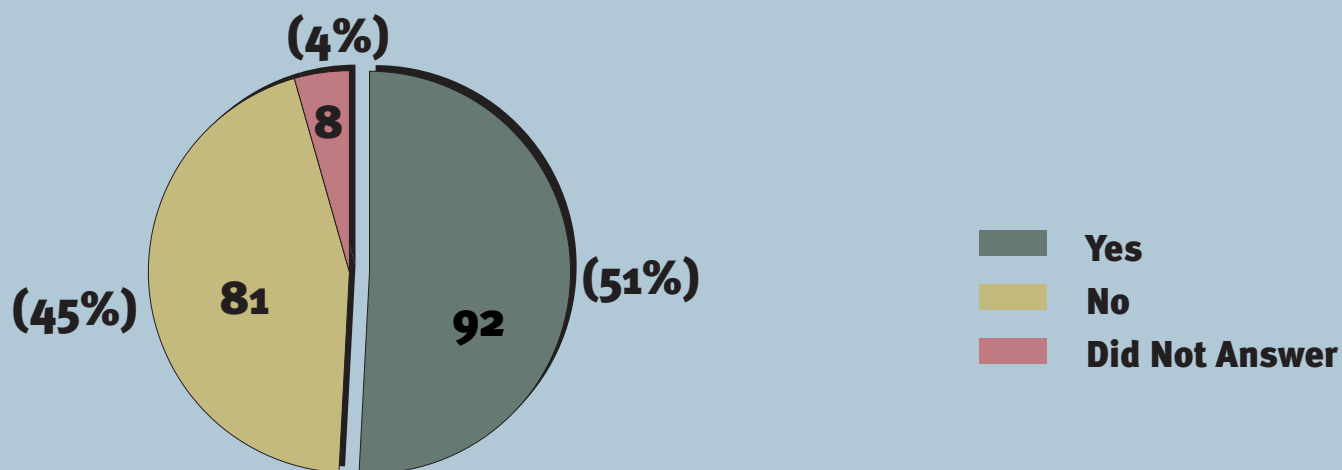
How long have you been riding the LA Swift bus?



Did use of LA Swift help you get a job in NO?



Did the **LA Swift** bus help you connect to your old job?



What is your salary range?

